



ROMANS

Strong faith for life



- The gospel in us **compels** us to express the gospel to **others**.

33 *Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?* Matthew 18:23-35 (NLT)

8 *Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another...* Romans 13:8a (NLT)

- Because we have experienced the gospel, we are **indebted** to **love** others as God has loved us.

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Matthew 6:14 (NIV)

...You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part. Matthew 6:14 (Msg)

A heart check question:

- Am I **forced** to love or **free** to love?

8 ...If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. Romans 13:8b (NLT)

9 For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law. Romans 13:9-10

11 This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. Romans 13:11 (NLT)

- The gospel gives us an **urgency** to love.

But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. Romans 13:11 (Msg)

A good heart check question is:

- Am I **investing** in this life or the afterlife?

Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are; help us to spend them as we should. Psalm 90:12 (TLB)

12 The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. 13 Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires. Romans 13:12-14 (NLT)

Application steps:

- Be **intentional** with your lifestyle.

12 So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. Romans 13:12b (NLT)

14 Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ... Romans 13:14a (NLT)

Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. 11 In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. 12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must **clothe yourselves with** tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:10-14 (NLT)

- Let your **identity** affect your influence.

13 Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see... Romans 13:13a (NLT)

- Choose your **thoughts** and your actions will follow.

...And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires. Romans 13:14b (NLT)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Why is it so important that the gospel has an expression from us to others? What does that mean?
- What does it mean that we are obligated to love others? Do you find it difficult to accept that we have a responsibility to love others which God holds us accountable for?
- What is the difference between being forced to love and free to love?
- Why is it urgent for us to love others? Do you have a sense of urgency to love others? What is the goal of loving others?
- Is your investment greater in this life or the afterlife? How are you investing in eternity?
- What does it mean to be intentional with your lifestyle? Why is this important?
- How does our identity in Christ affect our influence with others?
- Because of the gospel, what thoughts should we choose?
- What is one way you can love others more?

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Compelled to Love

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